(b) The Bangladesh Govern ment have assured us that their position has not changed.

Support for Independence of Tibet

1982. SHRI SANTOSH BAG-RODI A: Will the Minister of EX TERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some members of the Union Government have supported independence of Tibet; and

- (b) if so, what is Governments' policy towards Tibet ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL):(a)and(b) The Government of India's stand on Tibet remains consistent and well-known. | Tibet is recognised as an autonomous region of. China.

Visit of a Team of Amnesty International to Punjab

1983. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a U.S. Congress de-legation visited New Delhi in the first week of January. 1990 urging Government to invite a team of Amnesty International to visit Punjab;

(b) if so, what was these pecific demand of the delegation, indicating the position of the Amenesty-team" proposed to be sent to Punjab by the'. said." delega'ton;" and"

- (c) what is , Government's" res? ponse thereto?

' THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir:

. "(b) & (c) Congressman Solarz, Chairman of the--' Home Sub-Cora-mittee on the Asia and Pacific, visi ted India during the first week of January, 1990. He advised P.M. and me that the Indian Government's denial of access to Amnesty International was generating adverse reactions against-India in the US Congress and enquired about the new Government's thinking on this issue. Congressman Solarz was informed that the Government, was deeply committed to human rights and that the policy relating to Amnesty In-ternational was under consideration.

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Activities of Anand Margis in West Bengal

1984. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDA-RE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the activities of Anand Margis in West Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is _ Government's reaction thereto, including that to the activities of their political wing 'Anand Bengali' ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHA-MMAD . SAYEED): (a) to (c) The State Government of West Bengal has sent a report regarding certain illegal activities of the. Anand Mnrgis and its front orga-nisations. In Mach, '1989 the. State, Government; officials,, .while un' dertaking the demolition of an Un.-authorised construction,. raised ,by. the;Anmid Margis on the forest land arid. Bansgarh. Mouza, PS Jhalda in the district of Purulia detected. a', secret hide-out of Anand Margis", where unauthorised; fire-arms 'were also stored. Large ' quantity of arms were recovered and cases under Arms Act were registered. Following , this,raids were ,'conducted in the Anandnagar Ashram" premises., and from there also incriminating

materials like wireless transmission sets' and explosives were recovered by the police. ' The Anand Margis have also alleged by indulged in land grabbing in and around Anand Nagar. (Resentment among the local people has been growing due to the aggressive land grabbing ex ercises by Anaad. Margis and their other unlawful activities). Occa sionally this has led to clashes between the Margis and the local . people. ...

The Central Government is keeping a watch on the situation in close cooperation with the State Government of West Bengal.

US-Soviet Talks on strategic Nuclear . . . Arms Treaty

198:5. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atten tion has been drawn to the U. S. -Soviet Talks held. in Moscow around February 8, 1990, relating to a Stra tegic Nuclear Arms Treaty;

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made towards nuclear disarmament; and

(c) whether any negotiations have taken place for achieving a nuclear weapon-free world as contemplated in the proposals mooted at the U.N. by the former Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) The Foreign Minister cf the Soviet Union and the Secretary of State of the U.S.A. • met in Moscow from February 7—9, 1990. During their talk? they were able to resolve many outstanding issues connected with the START negotiations which are going on in Geneva between USA and the Soviet Union. The aim of the START negotiations, accepted by both sides, is to bring about a reduc-t'on of roughly 50.% of their strategic nuclear weapons which include land based Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles, Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles and inter continental bombers capable cf delivering nuclear bombs and nuclear-tipped cruise missiles. Both sides rove declared after the Moscow talks that they have made substantial progress and they hope to achieve agreement in principle on all the outstanding issues by June 1990. when a summit meeting is scheduled between the two countries.

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(c) No, Sir.'

Construction of Bridges over river Kaiisindh and Parvati in Kota

1986. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress of the construction of two bridges on the river Kaiisindh and Parvati in Kota District of Rajasthan sanctioned by Government recently; and

(b) by when the construction of these bridges is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNN1KR1-SHNAN): (a) and (b) The State Government have proposed the construction of the two bridges under the Central scheme cf assisting State Governments in construction of roads and bridges of economic and Inter-State importance. Central Government have not yet sanctioned these schemes and it is too early to say when these two bridges would be completed.